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Editorial. English version

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EDITORIAL

As this issue is finalized and released, the world is in the midst of a global pandemic which is challenging the policy and governance capacities of nations large and small, well-resourced and chronically under-resourced, and regardless of political, economic or social systems. The countries of Latin America are no exception, and many governmental and civil society organizations throughout the region are in uncharted territory as they try to stem the spread of COVID-19 and protect the people living within their borders.

In this environment, rigorous evidence-based research regarding the potential for public and civil society sectors to be effective providers of public services, independently or in collaboration, is of growing importance. While the articles in this issue do not address health policy directly, they provide lessons and insights that may be of value in the current crisis.

This issue of *Gobernar* represents both continuity and change, each of which contributes positively to the journal's development and its positioning as a valued scholarly resource both within the Latin American region and for those interested in understanding more about policy and governance issues of the region.

In terms of continuity, we are pleased to present the second issue which is the direct result of an alliance between *Gobernar* and the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Network. Much as they did following the ISTR LAC Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in 2017, Daniel Barragán (Ecuador), Anabel Cruz (Uruguay) and Susan Appe (USA) have once again teamed up to serve as guest editors for this issue which is comprised in large part by papers from the 2019 conference held at EAFIT University in Medellín, Colombia in July 2019. Their editorial which follows provides the context for appreciating the main questions interrogated at the conference and the contributions of the papers to those issues; there is no need to restate that here. Instead, we use this space to note that our mutual commitment to continuing this collaboration represents a recognition of the need for greater understanding of the roles of civil society organizations in the public policy arena, and that *Gobernar* provides a forum in which to do so. We look forward to many years of partnership and the continued publication of these special issues every two years in conjunction with the conferences of the ISTR-LAC Regional Network.

While the journal celebrates the continued alliance with ISTR, it also recognizes and welcomes change at the editorial level. Leonardo Garcia Jaramillo continues to serve as the Managing Editor for *Gobernar* however he now does so from Barcelona, where he is making great progress toward a doctorate degree. We appreciate his continued contributions to the journal even while he is geographically distant and has many other pressing priorities. With this issue we also say goodbye to my dear friend and colleague, Dr. Santiago Leyva, who was one of the founding co-editors of the journal. It was Santiago's idea to have our two universities – EAFIT University and Binghamton University – work together to establish a journal to fill a need in Latin America. *Gobernar* is thus, in many respects, his brainchild. Santiago is assuming additional administrative responsibilities at EAFIT and, while he will remain involved with the journal, he will no longer serve as a co-editor. Instead, I have the pleasure of now working alongside Dr. Maria Fernandez Ramirez, another dear friend and trusted colleague. Dr. Fernandez Ramirez, who has a PhD in Political Theory, Democratic Theory and Public Administration from Autonomous University of Madrid in Spain, brings to this position her expertise in processes of State transformation, new public management, and gender policy. Please join me in welcoming Maria to this new role, where she is already demonstrating her value to the journal.

To all, please stay safe.



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